

# **FRIENDS OF CHESTNUT GROVE (FoCG)**

## Chair's Report, November 2019 to February 2021

1. The new committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 12 November 2019:

### **Committee Elected on 12 Nov 2019:**

Co-Chair	Loné Olsen
Co-Chair	Damien Austin-Walker
Treasurer	Kathy Walker
Asst Treasurer	Vicky Maher
Secretary	None elected

### **Committee members**

Lorna Moxham  
Richard Williams  
Emma Wheeler  
Emily MacDonald  
Tracey Preston  
Kevin Keenoy  
Kristina Roszynski  
Matthew Cowley  
Catherine Farror  
Fritha Flint  
Mike Howard  
Sharon Noble (CG Fundraising Manager)  
Noga Verber / Richard Cheesborough (School representative)

The main objective of the committee was not only to raise additional funds to provide equipment for the students but to build good social and community links with parents and teachers. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 global pandemic very few events took place in the last year but we did manage to raise some much needed funds to support the most vulnerable students during the lockdown and absence from normal school life. We achieved this as outlined below.

2. The events and activities we supported and held during the last year were as follows:

- 18 Dec 2019 - Winter Concert. A fantastic showcase for the school's musical talent and its Year 7 choir. We support it by selling seasonal refreshments and holding our annual Winter Raffle. The bar and mulled wine station took £1274.50 (highest amount ever). A popular event to see the year out
- Annual Winter Raffle – 30 prizes were donated and raised £968.00 (highest amount ever)
- 6 February 2020 – Adult quiz night (over 16s only and open to all parents) with chilli con carne and rice cooked by the canteen staff. Event took £1631 including tickets, bar and raffle
- Spring Concert – this was cancelled due to the pandemic
- July 2020 – Yearly Production – this was cancelled due to the pandemic
- August 2020 – second-hand uniform sale was held at school and on our Facebook page and raised £507
- Year 7 Family Fish and Chips Quiz Night – we usually host a quiz night for our new parents and students in the autumn – this was cancelled due to the pandemic

- December 2020 – we teamed up with Ravenstone Primary School, Balham, to sell pre-booked Christmas trees at their school and raised £331.25
- In addition, we received £21,445 in donations from various sources including parent donations and our COVID-19 fundraising campaign. We also created a second-hand laptop campaign on our Facebook page in order to support students with home learning

We have recorded each event in a form called the Post Event Summary (PES), which gives a full breakdown of the event; including any lessons learned.

Despite the pandemic we have been active as much as could have been possible. We have allowed our Facebook page to be used by the school for non-PTA activities in order to increase communications between the school and the parents. This has increased our FB page followers to 368 (pre-Covid we had 232 followers).

In the last year we have donated a total of £11,400 to the school - £2,000 to help buying additional laptops for the students for home learning and £9,400 to enable the school to recruit a psychologist to provide professional counselling to students during the Covid-19 pandemic up to and including the academic year (July 2021).

The support the Friends have received from the teaching staff, Sharon Noble and premises officers (especially Jamal) has contributed enormously to the success of our events.

We would also like to thank Kathy Walker for her incredible hard work and dedication over the last 6 years as our Treasurer and committee member. We are now actively looking for a new treasurer (currently c/o Damien Austin-Walker, Co-Chair).

### **Upcoming Events**

We currently have no planned events due to Covid-19.